



$\frac{1}{4}$

U. F. n. sch. del. J. Smith. lith.

M & N Hanhart imp.

GOURA SCHEEPMAKERI

stances of adaptation I have witnessed. I could not finish admiring, and thought that never had any thing so beautiful fallen in my way before; for even the sublime cloud-seeking instinct of the White Egret and the typical Herons seemed less admirable than this; and for some time I continued experimenting, pressing down the bird's head and trying to bend him by main force into some other position; but the strange rigidity remained unrelaxed, the fixed attitude unchanged. I also found, as I walked round him, that, as soon as I got to the opposite side and he could no longer twist himself on his perch, he whirled his body with great rapidity the other way, instantly presenting the same front as before.

Finally I plucked him forcibly from the rush and perched him on my hand, upon which he flew away; but he flew only fifty or sixty yards off, and dropped into the dry grass. Here he again put in practice the same instinct so ably that I groped about for ten or twelve minutes before refinding him, and was astonished that a creature to all appearance so weak and frail should have strength and endurance sufficient to keep its body rigid and in one attitude for so long a time.

10. On a new Species of Crown-Pigeon.

By OTTO FINSCH, Ph.D., C.M.Z.S.

[Received November 8, 1875.]

(Plate LXVIII.)

GOURA SCHEEPMAKERI, sp. nov. (Plate LXVIII.)

Slate-blue; wings and tail darker, the latter with a broad ashy apical margin; crop and breast of a dark vinaceous purplish brown; vent, lower flanks, and under tail-coverts of a lighter slate-blue than the upper parts; wings and tail at the inner webs and from below slate-black; the first six wing-coverts of the secondaries whitish ashy, narrowly tipped with blackish, the remaining coverts of the secondaries slate-black like the first row of the upper wing-coverts; the light whitish ashy area on the middle of the wing therefore margined above by a broad black cross band; remaining upper wing-coverts blackish, with dark slate-grey apical margins, the upper wing-coverts therefore darker than the back; lower wing-coverts slate-black; lores and eye-region black, forming a conspicuous area which extends to the base of the crown-feathers; a very high and compressed semicircular crest of a pale ashy colour passing into whitish ashy under certain lights, at the base bluish ashy; this crown, of which the longest feathers are about $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, is composed in the same manner as in *G. coronata*, by the hairy radii being disunited and dispersed from the straight rachis in an acute angle. Bill dark horn-colour, with a pale tip; feet blackish brown, toes lighter, nails blackish.

Long. alae.	caud.	culm.	riet.	tars.	dig. med.	ung.
12 ^{'''} 6 ^{'''}	9 ^{'''}	10 ^{'''}	23 ^{'''}	3 ^{'''} 2 ^{'''}	19 ^{'''}	7 ^{'''}

The specimen above described I obtained by chance from a dealer in Holland. When at the Gardens of the Zoological Society at Amsterdam, Mr. Westerman called my attention to a living specimen of *Goura*, which he believed to be new*, and which proved to be of the same species as my specimen. From my description, however, this specimen differs in some respects, having the throat and the smaller upper wing-coverts also vinaceous purplish brown, and the anterior coverts of the secondaries more decidedly whitish and tipped with purplish brown; otherwise the specimens agree in every respect. These differences probably depend on age or sex.

In the living bird the eyes are deep red, the legs and feet red, the bill blackish with pale tips.

This remarkable new Crown-Pigeon is intermediate between the two known species. It agrees with *G. victoriae* in size and the coloration of the underparts, but differs in the composition of the crown-feathers, which exactly resemble those of *G. coronata*. In *G. victoriae* these feathers are totally different, having a regularly webbed triangular disk at the apex, bordered very distinctly at the tip with white. *G. coronata*, of which the Leyden Museum possesses a series of nineteen specimens, never has the throat and breast purplish brown, but, on the contrary, has the back of this colour. As we know from the interesting account of Mr. Mitchell (P. Z. S. 1849, p. 169, t. xii.), *G. coronata* (male) and *G. victoriae* (female) paired and produced a hybrid in the Gardens of this Society, which unfortunately died in a few days. Having regard to this fact we might incline to believe this new *Goura* to be a hybrid; but if this were really the case, the formation and composition of the crown-feathers would no doubt prove to be intermediate between those of the two parents. This is not the case in my specimen, which, in regard to the crest, agrees throughout with *G. coronata*; and so I cannot believe it to be a hybrid. I may remark that *G. coronata* shows great variation in colour according to its localities. Specimens from Sorong, on the west coast of New Guinea, opposite the island Salawatti, have the sides of head and nearly the whole of the under surface black; and this is also the case in specimens from the island of Waigiou (*G. coronata minor*, Schleg.) and from Mysol ("abdomen et bas-ventre noir," Schlegel). But as between these black-varied specimens and those in the ordinary dress, there are many intermediate forms, and as, on the other hand, both forms occur in the same locality, I do not venture to consider the black-bellied form a distinct species.

Following the wishes of my esteemed friend Mr. Westerman, who wishes to express the feelings of thanks of himself and of the Royal Zoological Society of Amsterdam, I have the pleasure of naming this new species after Mr. C. Scheepmaker, of Soerabaya, who has presented to the Society many rare animals, and to whom also belongs the credit of having sent home the first specimens of this interesting new *Goura*.

Although the exact localities of my specimen and of that in the

* See notice of the same bird by Mr. Selater, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 380.

Amsterdam Gardens are unknown, I am fortunate in being able to give the south end of New Guinea, opposite Yule Island, as the true habitat of *Goura scheepmakeri*, having been kindly informed by Mr. Sclater that several specimens of it are contained in the last collection sent to the Civic Museum of Genoa, by the indefatigable Italian traveller Signor d'Albertis, from that locality.

December 7, 1875.

George Busk, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November 1875 was read by the Secretary:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November 1875 was 98, of which 2 were by birth, 35 by presentation, 38 by purchase, 4 by exchange, and 19 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 124.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. A female Beisa Antelope (*Oryx beisa*) from Eastern Africa, presented by H.H. the Sultan of Zanzibar, and received November 8, 1875. This addition is the more welcome, as it makes a pair to the male of the same species presented by Admiral A. Cumming, R.N., in 1874. I believe that this is the only pair of this fine Antelope in Europe.

2. Two All-Green Tanagers (*Chlorophonia viridis*) from Brazil, purchased November 16, 1875. This species is new to the collection, and has not, so far as I know, been previously received in a living state.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a skin of *Hypocolius ampelinus*, Bp. (Consp. i. p. 336; Heuglin, Ibis, 1868, p. 181, pl. v.), which had been obtained by Mr. W. T. Blanford at Mazátáni Nai, in Upper Scinde, to the west of Shikarpúr, in March 1875, as already recorded by Mr. Blanford in 'The Ibis,' 1875, p. 388. M. Oustalet, of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Jardin des Plantes, Paris, had kindly compared this specimen with an adult male example from Sennaar, received from M. Botta (the original discoverer of this curious bird) in 1839, and had found them completely identical. M. Oustalet stated that there were three mounted specimens of *Hypocolius ampelinus* in the Gallery of the Paris Museum, received from M. Botta.

Mr. Sclater remarked that this discovery was of special interest, as a further proof of the extension of some of the most characteristic types of the Æthiopian Fauna into Western India.

Mr. Sclater read an extract from a letter addressed to him by